

permitting the customer to display any of the preselected digital data content from storage; and

transmitting digital data content displaying information from the customer to a remote location to verify that a preselected digital data content has been displayed.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising billing the customer for only the digital data content that is stored and displayed.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the displaying of the video image data is by viewing.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the digital data content is audio data and the displaying of the audio data is by audio reproduction.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
compressing the digital data content prior to transmission to the customer; and
decompressing the digital data content prior to displaying by the customer.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein a larger number of digital data content is transmitted at a predetermined time of the day.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the predetermined time of day is a prime viewing period.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein a larger number of digital data content is transmitted at a predetermined time of the day and according to a predetermined criteria.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the digital data content is video image data, the predetermined time of day is a prime viewing period, and the predetermined criteria is whether the video image data is a new release.

30. The method of claim 21, further comprising transmitting additional information to the customer along with the plurality of the digital data content.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the additional data is selected from a group consisting of digital data content listing, digital data content transmission schedule, pricing data for displaying each of the plurality of digital data content, digital data content summary, a critical review of the digital data content, a sample of the digital data content.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of periodically updating the additional data.

33. The method of claim 21, wherein the permitting the customer to preselect desired digital data content from the plurality of digital data content for storage comprises displaying the plurality of digital data content by category.
34. The method of claim 21, further comprising preventing the preselected and stored digital data content from being displayed on unauthorized devices.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein the preventing comprises inserting coding in the digital data content which prevents display on unauthorized devices.
36. The method of claim 21, further comprising enabling a display device for displaying of the preselected and stored digital data content.
37. The method of claim 36, wherein the enabling comprises transmitting an enabling signal to the display device from the remote location.
38. The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of digital data content is transmitted to a plurality of customers, the method further comprising altering the preselected and stored digital data content to identify the particular customer from the plurality of customers.
39. The method of claim 38, wherein the altering comprises inserting a digital watermark in the preselected digital data content prior to storage.

40. The method of claim 21, further comprising automatically selecting storage of additional information according to a predetermined criteria.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the additional information is promotional information on at least one of the plurality of digital data content.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the additional information is a soundtrack corresponding to the video image data.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein the predetermined criteria is according to a customer preference.

44. The method of claim 40, wherein the predetermined criteria is according to a customer profile.

45. The method of claim 40, further comprising advising the customer of the storage of the additional information.

46. The method of claim 21, further comprising detecting data errors in the stored digital data content.

47. The method of claim 46, further comprising informing the customer of detected data errors in the stored digital data content and permitting the customer to either display the digital data content with errors or repair the errors in the digital data content.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the repair of the errors in the digital data content comprises retransmitting the digital data content and storing the retransmitted digital data content.

49. The method of claim 46, further comprising designating a degree of errors in the stored digital data content and informing the customer of the degree of errors.

50. The method of claim 21, further comprising crediting a provider of the digital data content upon displaying of the digital data content.

51. A method of distributing digital data content to a customer, the method comprising:
transmitting a plurality of the digital data content to the customer;
automatically selecting desired digital data content from the plurality of digital data content for storage according to a predetermined criteria;
permitting the customer to display any of the selected digital data content from storage; and
transmitting digital data content displaying information from the customer to a remote location to verify that a selected digital data content has been displayed.

52. The method of claim 51, further comprising billing the customer for only the digital data content that is stored and displayed.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the displaying of the video image data is by viewing.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein the digital data content is audio data and the displaying of the audio data is by audio reproduction.

55. The method of claim 51, further comprising:
compressing the digital data content prior to transmission to the customer; and
decompressing the digital data content prior to displaying by the customer.

56. The method of claim 51, wherein the predetermined criteria is randomly on a periodic basis.

57. The method of claim 51, wherein the predetermined criteria is based on the popularity of the digital data content.

58. The method of claim 51, wherein the predetermined criteria is based on the preferences of the customer.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein the preferences of the customer are manually entered by the customer.

60. The method of claim 58, further comprising:

transmitting classification information in a header of at least some of the plurality of digital data content;

comparing the classification information to preference information of the customer;

and

02/ automatically selecting digital data content from the plurality of digital data content having a predetermined degree of similarity between the classification information and the preference information.

61. The method of claim 51, further comprising overwriting stored digital data content with the automatically selected digital data content according to a predetermined criteria.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the predetermined criteria is that the oldest stored digital data content is overwritten with the automatically selected digital data content.

63. The method of claim 61, wherein the predetermined criteria is that older releases of stored digital data content is overwritten with the automatically selected digital data content.

64. The method of claim 61, wherein the predetermined criteria is that stored digital data content which least fits a preference of the customer is overwritten with the automatically selected digital data content.

65. A system for distributing digital data content to a customer, the system comprising:
first transmission means for transmitting a plurality of the digital data content to the customer;

2 receiver means for receiving the plurality of digital data content and permitting the customer to preselect desired digital data content from the plurality of digital data content;

a memory for storage of the preselected digital data content;

a playback device for permitting the customer to display any of the preselected digital data content from the memory; and

second transmission means for transmitting digital data content displaying information from the customer to a remote location to verify that a preselected digital data content has been displayed.

66. The system of claim 65, further comprising a billing system for billing the customer for only the digital data content that is stored and displayed.

67. The system of claim 65, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the playback device is a monitor for displaying of the video image data by viewing.

68. The system of claim 65, wherein the digital data content is audio data and the playback device is at least one speaker for displaying of the audio data by audio reproduction.

69. The system of claim 65, further comprising:

an encoder for compressing the digital data content prior to transmission to the customer; and

a decoder for decompressing the digital data content prior to displaying by the customer.

70. The system of claim 65, further comprising means for preventing the preselected and stored digital data content from being displayed on unauthorized devices.

71. The system of claim 70, wherein the means for preventing comprises an encoder for inserting coding in the digital data content which prevents display on unauthorized devices.

72. The system of claim 65, wherein the plurality of digital data content is transmitted to a plurality of customers, the system further comprising means for altering the preselected and stored digital data content to identify the particular customer from the plurality of customers.

73. The system of claim 72, wherein the means for altering comprises an encoder for inserting a digital watermark in the preselected digital data content prior to storage.

74. The system of claim 65, further comprising means for detecting data errors in the stored digital data content.

75. The system of claim 65, wherein the first transmission means is selected from a group consisting of a satellite transmission, cable transmission, internet transmission, and telephone transmission.

76. The system of claim 65, wherein the memory is a peripheral device selected from a group consisting of a hard drive, a compact disc, an optical drive, a magnetic drive, a magneto-optical drive, and a DVD Ram.

77. A system for distributing digital data content to a customer, the system comprising:
first transmission means for transmitting a plurality of the digital data content to the customer;

receiver means for receiving the plurality of digital data content and automatically selecting desired digital data content from the plurality of digital data content according to a predetermined criteria;

a memory for storage of the selected digital data content;

a playback device for permitting the customer to display any of the selected digital data content from the memory; and

second transmission means for transmitting digital data content displaying information from the customer to a remote location to verify that a selected digital data content has been displayed.

78. The system of claim 77, further comprising a billing system for billing the customer for only the digital data content that is stored and displayed.

79. The system of claim 77, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the playback device is a monitor for displaying of the video image data by viewing.

80. The system of claim 77, wherein the digital data content is audio data and the playback device is at least one speaker for displaying of the audio data by audio reproduction.

81. The system of claim 77, further comprising:

an encoder for compressing the digital data content prior to transmission to the customer; and

a decoder for decompressing the digital data content prior to displaying by the customer.

82. The system of claim 77, wherein the predetermined criteria is randomly on a periodic basis.

83. The system of claim 77, wherein the predetermined criteria is based on the popularity of the digital data content.

84. The system of claim 77, wherein the predetermined criteria is based on the preferences of the customer.

85. The system of claim 84, wherein the preferences of the customer are manually entered by the customer.

86. The system of claim 84, further comprising:

means for inserting classification information in a header of at least some of the plurality of digital data content prior to transmission; and

a processor for comparing the classification information to preference information of the customer and automatically selecting digital data content from the plurality of digital data content having a predetermined degree of similarity between the classification information and the preference information.

87. A user station for displaying digital data content, the user station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a transmission of a plurality of digital data content;

a memory; and

selection means for informing the user of the plurality of digital data content received, for selecting from the plurality of digital data content for storage in the memory, and for selecting from the digital data content stored in memory for display.

88. The user station of claim 87, further comprising a display for displaying the digital data content stored in the memory.

89. The user station of claim 88, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the display is a monitor.

90. The user station of claim 88, wherein the digital data content is audio data and the display is at least one speaker.

91. The user station of claim 87, further comprising a transmission means for transmitting billing information to a remote location for billing the customer for only the digital data content that is stored and displayed.

92. The user station of claim 87, wherein the receiver is selected from a group consisting of a satellite receiver, cable receiver, internet receiver, and telephone receiver.

93. The user station of claim 87, wherein the memory is a peripheral device selected from a group consisting of a hard drive, a compact disc, an optical drive, a magnetic drive, a magneto-optical drive, and a DVD Ram.

94. The user station of claim 87, wherein the plurality of digital data content is compressed, the user station further comprising a decoder for decompressing the digital data content prior to displaying by the customer.

95. The user station of claim 87, further comprising means for detecting data errors in the stored digital data content.

96. The user station of claim 87, wherein the selection means comprises a monitor for displaying a listing of the plurality of digital data content received and means for traversing the listing and selecting a desired one from the listing for storage and for display.

97. The user station of claim 96, wherein the means for traversing comprises a plurality of buttons, some of the plurality of buttons having a function of traversing the listing and at least one of the buttons having a function of selecting a desired one from the listing.

98. A user station for displaying digital data content, the user station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a transmission of a plurality of digital data content;

a memory;

a means for automatically selecting from the plurality of digital data content for storage in the memory; and

selection means for informing the user of the digital data content automatically selected and for selecting from the automatically selected digital data content for display.

99. The user station of claim 98, further comprising a display for displaying the digital data content stored in the memory.

100. The user station of claim 99, wherein the digital data content is video image data and the display is a monitor.

101. The user station of claim 99, wherein the digital data content is audio data and the display is at least one speaker.

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102. The user station of claim 98, further comprising a transmission means for transmitting billing information to a remote location for billing the customer for only the digital data content that is stored and displayed.

103. The user station of claim 98, wherein the receiver is selected from a group consisting of a satellite receiver, cable receiver, internet receiver, and telephone receiver.

104. The user station of claim 98, wherein the memory is a peripheral device selected from a group consisting of a hard drive, a compact disc, an optical drive, a magnetic drive, a magneto-optical drive, and a DVD Ram.

105. The user station of claim 98, wherein the plurality of digital data content is compressed, the user station further comprising a decoder for decompressing the digital data content prior to displaying by the customer.

106. The user station of claim 98, further comprising means for detecting data errors in the stored digital data content.